This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	β -Amyloid (A β)	<p>Mouse studies suggest a conjugate vaccine against the amino-terminal fragment of Aβ could help prevent AD. The vaccine consists of residues 1–15 of Aβ conjugated to a diphtheria toxoid–derived carrier and formulated in an oil-based nanoparticle emulsion. In a mouse model for AD, the vaccine induced an antibody response and an anti-inflammatory pattern of T cell activity, and it decreased histological and cognitive abnormalities compared with vehicle control. Next steps include studies in aged mouse AD models and preclinical development of the vaccine candidate.</p> <p>Researchers at Mercia Pharma Inc. are coauthors on the study, and the company has an AD vaccine candidate in preclinical development. At least 11 other companies have vaccines for AD in Phase II testing or earlier development.</p> <p>SciBX 6(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.472 Published online May 16, 2013</p>	Patents filed by Mercia Pharma on vaccine formulation; available for partnering	<p>Liu, B. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online April 17, 2013; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.5924-12.2013</p> <p>Contact: Cynthia A. Lemere, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: clemere@rics.bwh.harvard.edu</p>